



Summer 2025

## ***A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR***



### **Happy Disability Pride Month!**

This month is a powerful time to celebrate the stories, voices, and achievements of the disability community. We are proud to share the very first edition of the Disability Book Week Newsletter during this meaningful month.

But this isn't just a newsletter, it's an invitation to connect with our vision—to build a world that embraces diversity, encourages empathy, and values the contributions of all. So please check out [disabilitybookweek.org](https://disabilitybookweek.org) for your next great read, then join us in sharing these books and resources to educate and empower others!

**Thank you for your support!**

**Lindsey Larsen, OTD, OTR/L, ASDCS**

## **IN THE MEDIA**

In an interview with Accessible Media, Inc.'s *Kelly and Company*, Director of Disability Book Week Lindsey Larsen discusses the rapid growth of the international movement, and how visibility and vulnerability lay the groundwork for effective advocacy. Check out the interview [here](#)!

# AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT: JANNESY DELEON

## 1. What prompted you to write about disability?

My two children, Gabriella and Nicholas, inspired me to write stories about disability. As a mom and caregiver, I've seen firsthand how often kids like mine are left out of books and media. I wanted to create stories where children with disabilities are front and center, celebrated for who they are.

## 2. What is your experience with disability and how has it shaped you as an author?

I've been a full-time caregiver for over twenty years. Both of my children are non-verbal and have complex medical needs. Living this life has taught me patience, resilience, and how to advocate fiercely. As an author, it's given me a purpose: to make sure families like mine feel seen and valued.

## 3. What are you hoping your readers will take away/learn from your story?

I hope readers—kids and adults—see that inclusion isn't just an idea, it's an action. My stories show that everyone has value and deserves to be part of the community. I also want to show that disabilities don't define the whole person; they are simply part of a beautiful, full life.

## 4. Have you or do you plan to write other books with a disability focus?

Yes! My books *Tag! You're It* and *Not A Shot!* are both about inclusion and disability. I'm currently working on *Here Comes Sam*, a story about Gabby and Nicky adopting a rescue dog and learning responsibility. We're in the middle of illustrations now, and I'm hoping to have it out before the end of the year. I've also already written my fourth book. This series will always center my main character Gabby with multiple disabilities, because representation like this is so important for children and families.

## 5. What other books about disability would you recommend to your readers?

I recommend *We Move Together* by Kelly Fritsch and Anne McGuire—it's a wonderful book about disability justice and building community. *All the Way to the Top* by Annette Bay Pimentel is an inspiring story about a young girl fighting for her right to be included in school. I also love *Dogfish and the Gift of Inclusion* by Rita Reed. It's written with a rhythm that flows like a song and beautifully shows how everyone belongs. This story touched my heart and perfectly captures the joy of celebrating our differences.

**To learn more about Jannesy, visit her website and connect with her on social media.**

**Website:** [www.jannesydeleon.com](http://www.jannesydeleon.com)

**Facebook:** @jannesydeleonauthor

**Instagram:** @jannesydeleon

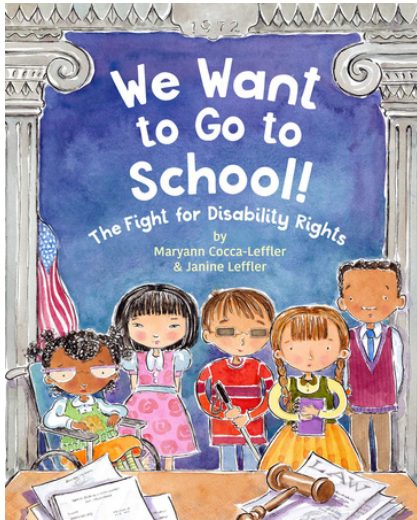
**Threads:** @jannesydeleon

**LinkedIn:** @jannesydeleon



# NEW ADDITIONS TO [DISABILITYBOOKWEEK.ORG](http://DISABILITYBOOKWEEK.ORG)

## CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK



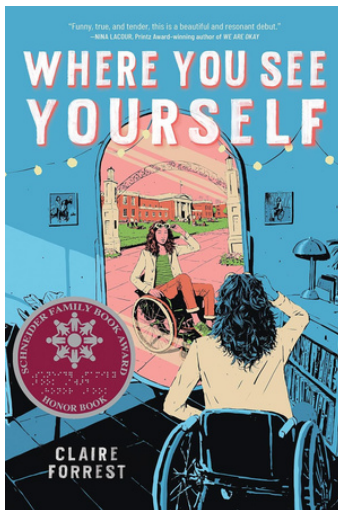
There was a time in the United States when millions of children with disabilities weren't allowed to go to public school. But in 1971, seven kids and their families wanted to do something about it. They knew that every child had a right to an equal education, so they went to court to fight for that right.

## CHILDREN'S CHAPTER BOOK



When Zac finds a wishing well deep in the woods, he wishes for something powerful—the wheelchair of his dreams! To his surprise, he was about to begin the ride of a lifetime. But when the school bully finds the well too, disaster could be in store. Will Zac's new Mighty Wheels be enough to stop the town from destruction?

## YOUNG ADULT



During her senior year, finding a college that will be the perfect fit and be accessible enough for Effie to navigate in her wheelchair presents a ton of considerations that her friends don't have to worry about. As Effie navigates her way through a year of admissions visits, senior class traditions, internal and external ableism, and a lot of firsts--and lasts--she starts to learn that sometimes growing up means being open to a world of possibilities you never even dreamed of.

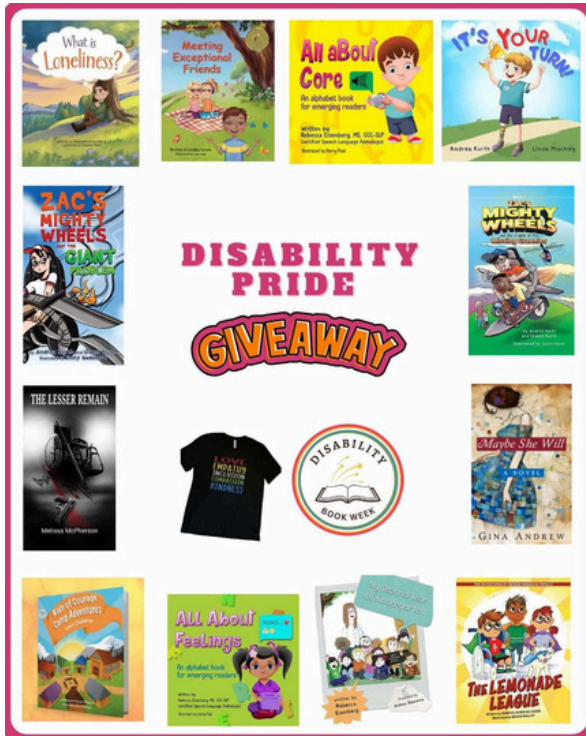
## ADULT



From where she sat, her perspective of the world was both quite ordinary and rivetingly extraordinary—from a paralyzing car accident in her teens to traveling overseas on a journey of self-reflection to becoming a mom. Throughout everything she experienced, she fervently believed in following her given path.



# ENTER OUR DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH GIVEAWAY ON INSTAGRAM!



FROM NOW UNTIL JULY 17,  
ENTER TO WIN ONE OF THREE  
PRIZE PACKAGES!



FIND ALL THE DETAILS ON OUR  
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[@DISABILITY.BOOK.WEEK](#)



DISABILITY BOOK WEEK IS DEDICATED TO CELEBRATING AND PROMOTING DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE LITERATURE THAT AUTHENTICALLY REPRESENTS THE DIVERSE EXPERIENCES OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES. DISABILITY BOOK WEEK AMPLIFIES VOICES, CHALLENGES STEREOTYPES, EDUCATES, AND FOSTERS A CULTURE OF UNDERSTANDING AND INCLUSION THROUGH THE POWER OF STORYTELLING.

[WWW.DISABILITYBOOKWEEK.ORG](http://WWW.DISABILITYBOOKWEEK.ORG)

